


and delete the multiple dependent claims in this application, and thereby eliminate excessive claim fees. Such amendments are formal in nature and no new matter is added by any of the above amendments. A marked-up copy of the amended claims is enclosed to reflect these amendments. Entry of this amendment and early examination of this application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SORYU NAKAYAMA *et al.*

December 4, 2001 By: 
(Date)

WILLIAM W. SCHWARZE

Registration No. **25,918**

AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD, L.L.P.

One Commerce Square

2005 Market Street - Suite 2200

Philadelphia, PA 19103-7086

Telephone: (215) 965-1200

Direct Dial: (215) 965-1270

Facsimile: (215) 965-1210

E-Mail: wschwarze@akingump.com

WWS:sm

Enclosure